

## Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-13 AID-20 OIC-04 RSR-01 /156 W

----- 107207

R 310626Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6182

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

S E C R E T BANGKOK 13627

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO

SUBJ: SEATO: REPORT OF SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
FUTURE ROLE AND STRUCTURE OF SEATO

REF: STATE 172356

1. NEW ZEALAND DID FAVOR ABOLITION DEPSEC GEN SLOT AND, IN ANY CASE, OPPOSED MILITARY OFFICER IN THAT POSITION. THAILAND ON OTHER HAND FAVORED RETAINING SLOT AND GIVING IT TO MILITARY OFFICER. AUSTRALIA SHARED NEW ZEALAND VIEW THAT SLOT SHOULD NOT GO TO MILITARY OFFICER, AND OTHER MEMBERS, INCLUDING US, INDICATED THEY WERE FLEXIBLE. THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATION CITED REFTEL REFLECTED THE THAI/NEW ZEALAND STAND-OFF. THE PHRASE QUOTE MILITARY/ CIVILIAN OFFICER UNQTE WAS IN BRACKETS, MEANING THAT QUESTION OF WHETHER DEPSEC GEN SHOULD BE MILITARY OR CIVILIAN IS YET TO BE RESOLVED. SPECIAL COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO MEET AGAIN SEPTEMBER 4 TO DISCUSS NATIONAL COMMENTS ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BEFORE THEY ARE SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL REPS ON SEPTEMBER 11 (BANGKOK 12962).

2. SPECIAL COMMITTEE DRAFT RECOMMENDS THAT PRESENT CMPO BE APPOINTED DEPSEC GEN UNTIL COMPLETION OF HIS TOUR OF DUTY UPON DEPARTURE OF DEPSEC GEN HYSLOP IN NOVEMBER.

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NEW ZEALAND WAS WILLING GO ALONG WITH THIS INTERIM RECOMMENDATION

PROVIDED OTHERS WOULD AGREE TO ABOLISH DEPSEC GEN SLOT  
AFTER THAT OR AT LEAST RESERVE IT TO CIVILIAN.

3. SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAS SO FAR TACITLY ACCEPTED SEC GEN'S  
RECOMMENDATION THAT DEPSEC GEN SLOT BE ROTATED AMONG  
MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, ASSUMING THAT SLOT IS RETAINED.

4. MISSION BELIEVES THAT DEPSEC GEN SLOT IS EXPENDABLE  
AND BELIEVES THAIS MIGHT ACQUIESCE IF SPECIAL ASSISTANT  
SLOT, WHICH WOULD THEN BE SECOND HIGHEST POSITION, GOES  
TO A MILITARY OFFICER. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT TRY THIS  
RESOLUTION OUT ON NEW ZEALAND. IF REACTION IS FAVORABLE,  
BELIEVE EMBASSY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THAT POSITION  
BUT ALSO BE AUTHORIZED TO RETAIN FLEXIBILITY TO FACILITATE  
WORKING OUT OF COMPROMISE BOTH THAIS AND NEW ZEALANDERS  
CAN BUY.  
UNGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SEATO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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